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MRS. MILLS'S SISTER
KNEW OF HER LOVE

Wife Told Mrs. Barnhardt She
and Rector Were Ready to
Leave America.

WARNED TO FORGET HIM

Paterson Woman Says Clergy-
man's Letters Show Him
in Worst Light.

Mrs. Elsie Barnhardt, sister of Mrs. Eleanor Mills, and her husband, Frank, a draftsman, who live in East Thirty-eighth street, Paterson, told THE NEW YORK HERALD last night what they knew of Mrs. Mills's life in the weeks before she was slain with the Rev. Edward Wheeler Hall. Mrs. Barnhardt said Mrs. Mills confided in her about her affair with Hall, once making this remark:

"I like him and he likes me! All I have to do is to say the word and we'll go—leave America."

Tell of Exchanging Visits.

The Barnhardts live on the second floor of a four family flat. While Mrs. Barnhardt was finishing up the supper dishes and her husband worked on projection plans Mrs. Barnhardt spoke about Mrs. Mills's visit to her in Paterson five weeks before the murder.

Mrs. Mills at the time had barely recovered from her operation. Indeed, said Mrs. Barnhardt, the trip from New Brunswick to Paterson was too much for her, and Mrs. Mills had to spend the first day at Paterson in bed because of the overexertion.

Mrs. Mills did not discuss her love affair with the clergyman at that time, said Mrs. Barnhardt. Mrs. Barnhardt recalled that Mrs. Mills was looking forward with anticipation to a little outing of the women's guild of her church at Point Pleasant.

Mrs. Mills spoke of this trip and of the general church affairs and mentioned that Mr. Hall was a fine minister and that he was getting along nicely.

Admits Admiring Hall.

In the two weeks before the murder Mr. and Mrs. Barnhardt repaid the visit of Mrs. Mills and went to New Brunswick to spend a day. Mrs. Mills appeared to be more joyful and more of less recovered from the operation. It was at this time that Mrs. Mills confided to Mrs. Barnhardt that she liked Hall. Again she spoke of him as a wonderful man and a wonderful preacher, and referred to the fact that several other women in the church were also impressed with him.

Mrs. Minnie Clashe, who has been mentioned in the case, was "crazy about Mr. Hall," according to what Mrs. Mills told Mrs. Barnhardt, who added:

"My sister then said, 'But Mr. Hall wouldn't do any favors for her, and I thought that my sister was flattered, and I didn't suspect that there was anything more between her and Mr. Hall than admiration on her part.'"

"You know how women in a church are. They think their minister is a great man, but I never thought there was any love between them."

Childs Mrs. Mills.

Mrs. Mills, however, talked more and more about Mr. Hall, but still, Mrs. Barnhardt said, "we didn't think anything of it until she dropped little remarks such as the one about leaving America. Mrs. Barnhardt thought this was a clear reference to plans to elope to Europe."

Mrs. Barnhardt was surprised to learn that her sister felt that way, and said to her:

"You are living a lie."

Mrs. Mills did not take that view of it, and Mrs. Barnhardt declared that "even after she talked that way I didn't

HALL CASE STARTS ANEW
WITH STATE IN CHARGE

Continued from First Page.

Newark that he had appointed Mason. It was said that the new special prosecutor's general methods differ considerably from those employed for the last five weeks. Mason, of Newark, made the following statement regarding the case and his appointment as an assistant:

"I am going there with an open mind and will disregard all newspaper gossip which has been printed so far. Our first move will be to obtain all of the documents which passed between the principals in the case. We are going to co-operate with Prosecutors Stricker and Beekman and also with the New Brunswick police force. We will probably go to Somerville to-morrow and decide which place will be best to establish our headquarters."

When the appointment by Attorney-General McCran was announced to Prosecutors Stricker, he said:

"If the new prosecutor requests any cooperation on our part here we will try to give him the same unrestricted service as we have given Mr. Beekman." While the appointment of Mott meets with favor it is thought quite possible that its effect will be to elap the lid on the case, to stifle the public demand for a solution and prevent any disposition to make an arrest to silence what the officials refer to as clamor. Notwithstanding the entire cessation of activity in official quarters some developments were forthcoming during the day.

The detectives and State police working have found discrepancies between the explanations given by Henry Stevens, brother of Mrs. Hall, before the Prosecutor and a newspaper interview by his wife. They concern Henry Stevens's fishing expedition at Lavellette on the night of the murder and the place where he slept afterward. Stevens says he fished from the beach. Mrs. Stevens is quoted as having said that he fished from a boat. Stevens said he slept in his own room. Mrs. Stevens says he slept on a cot in the rear of the house.

Mrs. Stevens was not at home that night and her husband had the place at Lavellette to himself. He said he went to bed about 11 o'clock, and there is no one to contradict or corroborate this statement.

There was heard, too, a story that would have been of much greater importance had it been known earlier, and which, while it cannot be connected directly with the murder, may have some bearing as showing the sort of characters that were not far from the Phillips farm on the night of the murder.

The story is told with circumstantial details by a man who works at a house directly across from Azariah Beekman's little red home in Bound Brook. He is Frank Pfister, who for seventeen years has been the chauffeur of S. Miller of 121 East Union street, Bound Brook.

believe anything like what it turned out to be."

Mr. Barnhardt gave additional details of this last visit of the Barnhardts with Mrs. Mills. Mrs. Mills invited Barnhardt out to the front porch while they were waiting for Mills to return from work. Of the conversation, Barnhardt said:

"As we were sitting on the porch Mrs. Mills said to me, 'You are married. Suppose you met some one you really loved perhaps more than your wife, would you let that stand in the way of your happiness?'"

Barnhardt replied to her: "Well, I haven't met anybody I love more than Elsie. Not having met anyone like that, it would be quite impossible for me to answer the question."

This, coupled with the remark about the elopement, made it clear to them then what the state of Mrs. Mills's affections was, and they took her seriously in her affair with the rector. They counseled her to remain where she was and take care of her husband and children. It was at this time that Mrs. Barnhardt said:

"Eleanor, if you keep this up you are living a lie. No good can come of it."

Mills arrived from work soon after this, and as they went right in to supper nothing more was said about it. After this day's visit, Mrs. Barnhardt never saw Mrs. Mills again alive.

Mrs. Mills, however, had planned another visit to Paterson. She was to have gone for a week-end rest on the day following the murder.

In connection with the theory that there is a mysterious third woman in the case living somewhere in New York, to whom Hall sent telegrams and other messages, Mrs. Barnhardt said:

"I don't believe there is a third woman. From what I know now Hall was too greatly in love with my sister. I believe there is no truth to the report that there is another woman in the case. They probably had a place in New York where they spent some of their time, and if there were any messages to New York they probably were to Mrs. Mills."

which lies between this town and Somerville on Easton road, the continuation of Easton avenue, on which the Phillips farm abuts.

Pfister said that on the night of the murder, September 14, he was returning from Red Bank, where with other volunteer firemen he had been to attend the fiftieth anniversary of the Red Bank Fire Department. He was driving an automobile belonging to G. P. Bunney of Bound Brook. In the party were the two men, their wives, another woman and two children. They left Red Bank at 7:35 and arrived at Bound Brook at 8:10 in the evening.

When about 200 yards beyond the wireless station close to Easton road, about a mile beyond De Russy lake and the Phillips farm, Pfister said he saw a small automobile drawn up at the right side of the thoroughfare, with the tail light burning. As he approached there was suddenly thrown from the car an inflated tire, which bounded across the roadway and landed in the ditch on the opposite side.

Pfister jammed on his brakes, and three men, all negroes, jumped from the automobile and ran across the road in such a way that it was almost impossible to avoid hitting them. They shouted, but what they said he did not know, nor did he know whether they were shouting at him or at one another.

Pfister had to "take the ditch" to avoid them, and his automobile nearly was stopped. As he went by he saw, out of a corner of his eye, a fourth negro sitting at the wheel of the automobile, which he thought most peculiar, as the man driving would not have retained

his place had there been a puncture or a blowout.

Pfister was sure that the tire that nearly blocked his road did not come from the rear of the small car and that the men were not standing about. The incident caused a lot of talk and speculation among his party.

Hardly had they passed on when they came to the Middlebush road, which branches off at right angles from Easton road. In this roadway, which is of dirt and heavily shaded by trees, they saw another and larger automobile standing with the tail light burning. All members of the party were impressed with the fact that the two were apparently stalled so close together. "And neither of those cars had any license tag on it," said Pfister.

Ku Klux Theory Again.

The theory that the Ku Klux Klan had a hand in the murder is about again, based this time on a letter received by Florence North, woman lawyer, acting, presumably, in behalf of the Mills family. Anonymous letters have been reaching all the principals and some of the smaller fry in this case every day and by the bushel. Miss North showed her letter, which was actually signed "K. K. K." It read:

"If you do not stop your silly activities and keep on exploding your foolish ideas the Ku Klux Klan will give you a taste of the same medicine we gave Mrs. Mills. So beware or you will see the fiery cross some night and get your due reward."

"Jimmie" Mills, as he has come to be generally known, even to those who interview him every day or so, contributes a new line of thought now and then and may, if the case lasts long enough, develop into an epigrammatist. His newest offering was, "What they should have done in the first place was to throw all the members of the Mills and

the Hall families and every one else who had a key to the church into jail and let them fight their way out."

Slowly more particulars of the affair between the rector and the choir singer are coming to light. Though now and then strange bits of information are denied by one party or another, there is being built up a tale that few novelists would have dared attempt to pen. For instance it now appears that there were other gifts bought for the slain rector by Mrs. Mills besides the tie clasp with the initial "G." These were purchased and either turned over to the rector in the hours when he and the choir singer were alone in the church or rectory or were sent to him through a messenger. They included toilet articles, small pieces of jewelry, a shaving set and other things. Some of these still remain in the Hall home among the personal effects of the rector.

There were many spots where Hall and Mrs. Mills met in the outskirts of New Brunswick. Sometimes the pair took long walks in the afternoon, visited several of the places and then separated only to meet again the same night. It appeared strange that the absence of the rector from his home on these extended walks and trips was not noticed.

Mrs. Mills, it was learned, would go home after one of the long walks and speak casually of the beautiful places she had visited. She never mentioned any companion and made it appear to members of her family as though she had just wandered out into the country in search of the beauties of nature. More than once these walks extended past the usual time for her to be at her home, and she answered the grumblings of her husband by telling him that she had been in far more beautiful surroundings all day than in his company.

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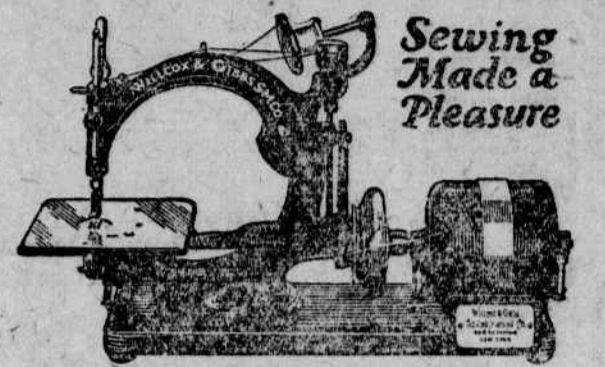
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